

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Meredith F. Gossett)	
)	
Certificate # 147888)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on Tuesday, December 7, 2004. On October 7, 2004, the Office of Teacher Education and Certification sent Meredith F. Gossett a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Gossett received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Gossett did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Gossett's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Gossett holds a valid certificate, and has over thirteen years teaching experience. Ms. Gossett held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with Greenville County School District. On September 28, 2004, Ms. Gossett notified the principal at Mauldin High School that her last day would be October 1, 2004. Ms. Gossett's stated reason was that she had "had it." On October 6, 2004, the District Superintendent wrote Ms. Gossett a letter advising her that her resignation was not in compliance with board policy, and that she was in breach of her contract. On October 12, 2004, the District Board of Trustees voted to request that the State Board suspend Ms. Gossett's certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Gossett breached her contract with the Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of Ms. Gossett's certificate # 147888 for a period of one year, from December 7, 2004, through December 8, 2005. Should Ms. Gossett wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary Jones

Dr. Mary Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 2004